

BUSINESS TAX/TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Monday, May 22, 2006

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Committee Members in Attendance: Bill Blackburn., ,Bill Garing, Linda Hussey, Ty Munger, John Resha, Sue Stewart, Jim Stanton, Steve Whitescarver, Bob Wikstrom

Staff: Don Cairns, Jeanne Justice, Joel Pfundt, Lisa Singer, Kurt Seemann, Erika Vandenbrande, and Sandy Yeager

Staff provided an overview of each of the projects noted below. Project descriptions were included in the agenda package. The notes below reflect the discussion, including questions and responses in italics, for each project.

TIP No. 30 Bear Creek Parkway Extension (\$4 million)

- How much is the total project cost? *\$35 million of which Phase I comprises about \$25 million*
- Is there an opportunity to help relocate businesses like Budget Rent-A-Car onto “excess” property in the area since they would be displaced? *Yes, it might be possible.*
- Is it likely that environmental clean-up costs for the site will greatly increase the project cost? What about cost-sharing with King County? *The property was acquired at significant discount anticipating clean-up costs, with a fair amount of prior assessment to take the clean-up costs in consideration.*
- Is there an expectation of future additional BTTI contributions? *Additional BTTI contributions would be for future steps/phases.*
- What is the expectation for the proportion of BTTI funds to fund this project, given that the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) makes up approximately 27% of the projected TMP funding? *Significant additional funding will be needed to complete the project.*
- What is the cost per lane mile or linear foot for this project? Committee members would like to see more metrics. *We can supply this, but we haven’t amortized the benefits.*
- What is the status of the BTTI tax? *The current tax sunsets at the end of 2006, but is assumed in the TMP to continue.*
- There is an expectation by Council to be specific about what the \$4 million is expected to pay for? *Right of way acquisition is the highest priority, followed by final design, and then clean-up costs prior to final construction The \$4 million would go mostly to right of way purchases.*
- This project is important and could be key in the redevelopment of downtown.
- Should the BTTI Committee make recommendations about the proceeds of the sale of any “excess” property going back into transportation projects? *Yes, if the BTTI committee chooses to make that recommendation*
- What is the benefit of the project to the downtown? *A new East-West connection, facilitates future 161st connection, makes it easier for future conversion of one-way couplet.*

TIP No. 31 NE 76 Street/Redmond Way (\$350,000)

- Are there any partners to help fund this improvement, for example, asking King County Metro to participate? *Metro still has routes in this corridor, but Sound Transit has re-routed their buses away from NE 76th St.*
- If funded, when would it be built? *Construction would occur in Fall 2006 prior to the WSDOT fly-over construction.*
- Is there any concern about WSDOT's fly-over ramp project impacting the improvements? *No, because the City is coordinating w/WSDOT.*

TIP No. 32 East-West Corridor Design (\$750,000)

- How much of the estimated costs are for the BNSF corridor? What is nature of design work? Costs for BNSF are unknown at this time. *It's actually a study, not a final design for construction.*
- Would the scope of study be done in such a way to better address if we should be pursuing BNSF? *The scope is undetermined at this point so yes that could be included.*
- What if BTTI funds were spent and it became a park? *That would be a concern to address in the future.*

TIP No. 37 SR 202 Phase II (\$400,000)

- What is this funding intended to do? *Finishes the City's obligation*
- What if BTTI doesn't fund the project? *The City would be obligated under its contract with the State to identify an alternate source of funding.*
- Could the project be completed without bells and whistles? Could we re-scope the project? *This is difficult to do while under construction because the contracts have already be let by the State.*

TIP No. S22 LEAP 2006 (\$1.5 million)

For this program, approximately 40 projects have been identified as possible candidates. The previous LEAP constructed equal portions of pedestrian improvements, signal improvement/timing, and channelization.

- Would you see leaving the individual project funding level the same? There was discussion about increasing the amount per project from the current \$100,000 to between \$125,000 - \$150,000. The mix of projects becomes important.

TIP No. S26 RITS (Redmond Intelligent Transportation System) (\$900,000)

The project consists of upgrading all signals in City to a new platform.

- Are the cameras intended for internet use? *Not initially, but eventually they will be widely available.*
- Does City have staff to do this? *Not yet, but we are in the process of filling several open positions that will greatly increase our resources and technical competency.*

TIP No. 33 NE 85 Street Rechannelization (\$150,000)

Preliminary concept.

- What challenges exist in moving forward? *The rechannelization projects are being presented to Council in June. There is a need to report back to Council.*
- How much signalization growth is associated with the project? *Fairly minor signal movement is needed – approximately \$100,000 total for moving loops.*
- Is there anything that can be done about the right turn into Post Office? *The Post Offices resources that are available to partner are highly limited. Ideas included suggestions to place drop-off boxes elsewhere, create an east-bound right turn lane to access the post office and creation of on-street parking.*

No TIP Number NE 36th Street Overcrossing

This would help pay for the City's contribution to match Microsoft's 70% contribution for the overcrossing. It would create a new connection between the east and west campuses and improve level of service by approximately 3 percent.

- Would the overpass ever be compatible with freeway on/off ramp? *No.*
- *This is an important project for Microsoft which pays 30-33% of BTTI tax and they're willing to tax themselves. It creates significant benefits for the area.*

TIP No. M1 Redmond Trip Reduction Incentive Partnership

Most funding goes back to employers/their commuters.

- Have gas prices increased demand on the program? *Have not seen this so much yet, but there increases typically have been seasonal.*
- How many staff work on these programs? *There are 3.25 FTEs between the two R-TRIP branded programs (M1 and M2)*

TIP No. M2 Citywide Rideshare Incentives

- What has been done to assess the program's impacts? *We have a weekly assessment of program participation for all the programs. We will also be conducting follow-up surveys and evaluation this summer. We've seen big impacts to date because efforts are focused on peak commute periods.*

TIP No. M7 Development required Transportation Mitigation Programs(TMPs), Maintenance and Support

No comments.

TIP No. M8 TDM Demonstration Programs/New Initiatives

- What funds would go for which projects? *\$200,000 would go toward 269 service from Sammamish into Overlake. The remainder would go toward the bike sharing program (including technology) and the partnership matching program.*
- Are there enough Metro coaches to provide the increased 269 service? *The City has received assurance in the past that there are enough coaches that would be available from operational improvements.*

- Has FlexCar been considered? *Yes, at least one employer has participated with FlexCar. However, the guarantee required is often considered cost-prohibitive.*

Next Steps: Forms to evaluate the projects will be provided to BTTI Committee members by Friday, May 26th .

The next BTTI Committee meeting will be held on Monday, June 5th from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm.